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Curtis

14. (Amended) An acid impervious metal substrate as claimed in Claim 13 wherein the adhesive is heat curable at a temperature below about 650°F.

15. (Amended) An acid impervious steel curing fixture comprising a surface having disposed thereon an acid impervious coating comprising a distinct polyimide particulate component and a distinct cured powder adhesive component, said polyimide particulate being [temperature resistant] acid impervious up to about 700°F., and said adhesive being heat curable at a temperature below about 650°F.

Please cancel Claim 12. ✓

REMARKS

The Office Action has objected to the specification with respect to certain informalities. The first such informality concerns an alleged failure to define the meanings of "high temperature tolerant" and "temperature resistant." Through the above amendment, Applicant has deleted all such terminology reciting temperature tolerance and resistance and has replaced the terminology with respective recitations relating to acid impervious functionality as discussed, for example, in the Background of the Invention section, where such functionality is addressed. Therefore, through the above amendment to the specification, Applicant believes this objection has been overcome.

A second informality concerns Applicant's recitation of a

"total surface area of about 0.0008 square inch" in defining size of each particle of polymer at page 5, lines 13-14. The Office Action suggests that surface area should be reported on a per unit of weight (e.g. gram) basis. Respectfully, however, Applicant does not understand this suggestion since the surface area of a particle is not related to the weight of the particle. Applicant therefore is unable to recognize any amendatory language.

A third informality concerns the Office Action's finding that the specification is "...unclear because it appears the 'polymer particulate' and 'powder adhesive' may be one in the same." It is respectfully submitted, however, that there is differentiation, as exemplified in the facts that the particulate is a separate component held in place by the powder adhesive which also is a separate component, and that the powder adhesive functions as an adhesive for, not as, the particulate only after curing in place on the surface of a fixture. Applicant therefore believes that the particulate and the powder are adequately distinguished from each other.

The Office Action has rejected Claims 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, and under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, under identical grounds of the recitation "temperature resistant." Through the above amendment the term temperature resistant in each of Claims 13 and 15 is deleted and replaced with the term "acid impervious," thereby overcoming the respective

rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112.

The Office Action has rejected Claims 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Poppe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,968,280). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Poppe et al. show polyolefin/polycarbonamide powder compositions for glass or metal coatings wherein the powder blends are fused together and are so compatible during fusion to form a blend having substantially the same properties as a premelted blend thereof. (Column 2, lines 1-6). Thus, the Poppe et al. polyolefin and polycarbonamide components do not retain distinct presence as two components, but instead become one component. Conversely, the instantly claimed acid impervious metal substrate has an acid impervious coating which retains a distinct polyimide particulate component and a distinct cured powder adhesive component. Applicants therefore believe that Poppe et al. do not anticipate or suggest such distinctive component retention, and consequently respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action has rejected Claims 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Merval et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,387,653). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Merval et al. patent discloses a thermoplastic powder composition for coating a metal and containing polyamide, polyetheresteramide, or a mixture thereof, along with an adhesive

polycondensate of a sulfonamide with an aldehyde or dicarboxylic acid. However, the adhesive component of Merval et al. is not a cured powder adhesive which, by definition, must be cured after being applied as a coating, but, instead, is an adhesive product when initially combined with the polyamide. Conversely, the presently claimed acid impervious metal substrate has an acid impervious coating of a distinct polyimide particulate component and a distinct cured powder adhesive component. Applicants therefore believe that Merval et al. do not anticipate or suggest a composition where one component thereof is cured after introduction of another component but only after being applied as a coating to a metal substrate, and consequently respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action has rejected Claims 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tanaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,993,975). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Tanaka et al. teach a coating composition comprising a polyester resin, a melamine, a rust preventive pigment, and organic polymer fine particles. However, this composition is taught as coatable only on a steel plate that, itself, is already coated with zinc or a zinc alloy. Thus, the Tanaka et al. coating is not coated on steel. Conversely, the, the instantly claimed acid impervious metal substrate has a steel surface (not a zinc-coated steel surface) upon which a defined acid impervious coating

resides. Applicants therefore believe that Tanaka et al. do not anticipate or suggest a coatable composition so coatable on a steel surface, and also do not anticipate a metal substrate with a steel surface upon which an acid-impervious coating resides. Applicants thus respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action has rejected Claims 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Perraud et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,830,975). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Perraud et al. disclose a polyamide/polymer powder mixture for coating a metal substrate where the polymer contains hydroxyl functional groups. The mixture is deposited on the substrate and then melted to form an homogenous coating. Conversely, the instantly claimed acid impervious metal substrate has an acid impervious coating which retains a distinct polyimide particulate component and a distinct cured powder adhesive component. Therefore, the components of the instant coating remain distinct from each other and are not melted into each other. Applicants consequently believe that Perraud et al. do not anticipate or suggest such distinctive component retention, and therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the above amendment and discussion, it is Applicants' belief that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/22/01

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